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receiving in said first device via a user interface of said first device a command requiring control of a capability of said second device;

sending from said first device to said second device via said CEBus control channel a request for control of said capability of said second device;

determining in said second device in response to an attribute of an audio or video signal received by said second device that control of said capability requires a first password entered into said second device via a user interface of said second device;

sending to said first device from said second device via said CEBus control channel a notification that said first password is required;

entering a second password into said first device via said user interface of said first device;

sending from said first device to said second device via said CEBus control channel an authenticate packet comprising said second password;

validating said authenticate packet in said second device by processing said authenticate packet with an authentication algorithm which uses said first password as a key;

and

enabling said first device to access said capability of said second device if said authenticate packet passes validation; or

sending an error indication to said first device from said second device via said CEBus control channel is said authenticate packet fails validation.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of validating said authenticate packet comprises the step of validating said authenticate packet for each of a plurality of passwords known to said second device; each of said plurality of passwords being associated with a different level of security.

[illegible]

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the step of sending an error indication to said first device comprises the step of sending from said second device to said first device via said CEBus control channel a result packet with an error token indicating that access to said capability is denied if said authenticate packet passes validation for at least one but not all of said plurality of passwords known to said second device.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein the step of sending an error indication to said first device comprises the step of sending from said second device to said first device via said CEBus control channel a reject packet with a reject code of failed\_authentication.